

Message Text

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ACTION AF-10

INFO OCT-01 EUR-12 IO-13 ISO-00 CIAE-00 DODE-00 PM-04
H-02 INR-07 L-03 NSAE-00 NSC-05 PA-02 PRS-01
SP-02 SS-15 USIA-15 ACDA-10 /102 W
-----161133Z 109368/10

P R 161011Z APR 77

FM AMEMBASSY LUSAKA
TO SECSTATE WASHDC PRIORITY 5434
INFO AMCONSUL CAPETOWN
AMEMBASSY DAR ES SALAAM
AMEMBASSY GABORONE
AMEMBASSY LAGOS
AMEMBASSY LONDON PRIORITY
AMEMBASSY MAPUTO
AMEMBASSY PRETORIA
USUN NEW YORK 1242

UNCLAS LUSAKA 1020

CAPETOWN FOR EMBASSY

E.O. 11652: N/A
TAGS: PFOR ZA UK RH US
SUBJ: ZAMBIAN PRESS UNENTHUSIATIC ABOUT OWEN'S VISIT

REF: LUSAKA 1012 (NOTAL)

1. IN THE WAKE OF FOREIGN SECRETARY OWEN'S DEPARTURE FROM LUSAKA APRIL 16, ZAMBIAN DAILIES REFLECTED A LACK OF ENTHUSIASM FOR AND SKEPTICISM ABOUT THE CHANCES FOR SUCCESS. DAILY MAIL HEADLINED ACCOUNT OF OWEN-KAUNDA MEETING WITH "KK DOUBTS OWEN"; CHANCES OF SUCCESS" AND THE TIMES OF ZAMBIA BANNERED "KK NOT IMPRESSED" WITH SUBHEAD "NEW OWEN IDEAS ARE DOUBTFUL".

2. PRESS ACCOUNTS OF KAUNDA'S REACTION WERE BASED ON OWEN'S PRESS CONFERENCE AT HIS DEPARTURE AND DID NOT DIFFER IN DETAIL
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FROM OUR PREVIOUS REPORT (REFTEL). HEADLINES WERE CHOSEN TO EMPHASIZE THE NEGATIVE WHILE BODY OF THE STORIES NOTED THAT KAUNDA WISHED OWEN WELL IN HIS EFFORTS, BUT VOICED SKEPTICISM ABOUT THE POSSIBILITY OF ACHIEVING A PEACEFUL SOLUTION IN RHODESIA.

3. APRIL 16 TIMES OF ZAMBIA COMMENTED EDITORIALLY THAT SUGGESTIONS

FOR RETURNING TO A CONFERENCE BEFORE SMITH HAS AGREED TO STEP DOWN "MUST BE TREATED WITH CONTEMPT ALONG WITH OTHER RIDICULOUS NON-STARTERS SUCH AS BRITAIN'S ABDICATING OF HER DUTY AND ASKING THE U.S. TO SHARE RESPONSIBILITY FOR THE RHODESIAN DEBACLE."

4. THE TIMES EDITORIAL ALSO CRITICIZED OWEN-LAUNCHED BRITISH INVESTIGATION OF OIL SANCTIONS VIOLATIONS AS A SOMOKESCREEN WHICH WILL SERVE NO USEFUL PURPOSE OTHER THAN TO BUY TIME FOR SMITH. THE BRITISH ATTEMPTS TO ENFORCE SANCTIONS WERE NEVER SERIOUS AND BRITISH HYPOCRISY HAS BEEN EXPOSED. THIS CURRENT INVESTIGATION IS IRRELEVANT. TIMES OF ZAMBIA ALSO CARRIED ARTICLE DATELINED LONDON DESCRIBING THE TERMS OF REFERENCE OF THE FULL INVESTIGATION BRITISH PROPOSE TO UNDERTAKE OF REPORTED BRITISH OIL COMPANY EVASION OF SANCTIONS.

5. THE PATRIOTIC FRONT STATEMENT OF APRIL 15 IN DAR THAT THE PF CANNOT BE EXPECTED TO ENGAGE IN "MAKE BELIEVE CONSTITUTIONAL EXERCISES DESIGNED TO DISTRACT AND CREATE FALSE HOPES IN THE MINDS OF ZIMBABWEAN PEOPLE" WAS FRONT PAGE NEWS. AS REPORTED, PF STATEMENT SAID UK HAD NEITHER THE INTENTION OR THE COMMITMENT TO TRANSFER POWER TO THE PEOPLE OF ZIMBABWE.

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Disposition Approved on Date:
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